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KETTERING
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

•

ANNUAL
REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1955

•

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Kettering Rural District Council

Chairman of the Council:

MR. A. DONOVAN LANE, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

MR. DENNIS E. HUTCHINSON, M.B.E., J.P., C.C.

Clerk to the Council:

MR. S. H. GILLARD

Members of the Public Health Committee: 1955

MESSRS. G. E. ALMOND, E. W. BARLOW, F. BUTLER, M. H. V. BURT,
C. H. CHAMPION, C. T. L. HAKEWILL, E. H. J. MAHONEY, R. P. ROWNEY,
W. SHARP, J. L. M. SINNETT, M.C., A. E. THODAY, M.B.E., J. A. B.
TOWNSIN

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

JAMES CARROLL, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., L.M., D.P.H., D.CH.

also holds the appointments of :

Medical Officer of Health, Burton Latimer Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Corby Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Desborough Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Rothwell Urban District Council.

School Medical Officer.

Secretary:

MISS M. W. LANGLEY.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector:

CHARLES R. STARMER, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A. (Holds the Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate as an Inspector of Meat and other Foods).

FRANKLIN H. VALENTINE, M.R.SAN.I. (Holds the Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate as an Inspector of Meat and other Foods).

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
75 LONDON ROAD,
KETTERING.

July, 1956.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Kettering Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. GEORGE AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my second Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Rural District for the year 1955. This report is prepared in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular No. 17/55 dated 23rd November, 1955.

The population (Registrar General's Mid-Year Estimate) is 11,970 and the Vital Statistics in this report are based on this figure. The population remained stationary, births decreased by 3 and the total deaths increased by 15. There were 2 deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis in contrast with none in 1954. Deaths from all forms of Cancer showed an increase by 13 and there were 9 deaths from Cancer of the Lung; this is the highest figure for a number of years. These deaths consisted of 7 males and 2 females. Heart and circulatory diseases accounted for 69 of the total of 135 deaths.

Section F of the report deals with notified Infectious Diseases. There were 205 cases of Infectious Disease as compared to 87 last year.

Sections C, D and E of the Report have been submitted by your Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor. Section C deals with the Sanitary Circumstances of the Area. Section D gives an account of the housing progress and the building programme. Section E deals with the Inspection and Supervision of Food.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Rural Council for their help and encouragement and Mr. Starmer for information supplied for this report and for his ever ready assistance throughout the year. I should also like to thank Mr. Gillard and staff for assistance on many matters throughout the year. Finally, I appreciate very much the assistance received from Miss Langley in compiling this report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES CARROLL,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

The following is a summary of the principal statistics for the years
1951, 1952, 1953, 1954 and 1955

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Area (acres)	61,680	60,768	60,768	60,768	60,626
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	12,190	11,940	12,050	11,970	11,970
Number of Live Births	188	194	205	176	173
Legitimate	179	186	192	165	167
Illegitimate	9	8	13	11	6
Birth rate per 1,000 population	15.42	16.25	17.01	14.70	14.45
Number of Still Births	5	1	8	3	3
Legitimate	5	1	8	3	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)	25.91	5.13	37.56	16.76	17.05
Rate per 1,000 population ...	0.41	0.08	0.66	0.25	0.25
Number of Deaths	158	130	123	120	135
Death rate per 1,000 population	12.96	10.89	10.21	10.03	11.28
Deaths from Pregnancy, Child-birth and Abortion	—	—	—	—	—
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	31.91	30.93	39.02	11.36	17.34
Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	15.95	20.62	29.27	11.36	11.56
* Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis	4	—	1	—	2
* Deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis	4	—	1	—	2
Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms	21	22	17	18	31
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—	1	—	—	—
Deaths from Enteritis and Diarrhoea under two years of age	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	—	—

*Registrar General's Figures

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area.—The area of the Rural District of Kettering is 60,626 acres. The density of population is 0.2 persons per acre and the housing factor is 3.15 persons per house. (Summary of Vital Statistics Page 5).

Population.—The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population for the mid-year 1955 is 11,970. This shows no increase on last years figure. Live births out-numbered deaths by 38 for 1955.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1955)	...	...	...	3,797
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£73,340
Sum represented by Penny Rate	...	...	...	£291.11.10

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are as follows:—Farming, Iron-stone Quarrying and manufacture of Iron and Steel, Steel Tubes and Clothing manufacture.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year :

LIVE BIRTHS					<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	167	93	74
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	6	4	2
TOTALS					173	97	76
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population					...	...	14.45
STILL BIRTHS					<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	3	2	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
TOTALS					3	2	1
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births					...	...	17.05
England and Wales					...	...	23.1
DEATHS					<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
					135	67	68
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (crude)					...	...	11.28
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (corrected)					...	...	10.60
Death rate from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion					...	...	—
Death rate of infants under one year of age :—							
All infants per 1,000 live births					...	...	17.34
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births					...	...	17.96
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births					...	...	—
Death rate from Measles (all ages)					...	...	—
Death rate from Whooping Cough (all ages)					...	...	—
Death rate from Enteritis and Diarrhoea (under two years of age)					...	...	—
Death rate from Malignant Neoplasms					...	...	2.59
Death rate from Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis					...	...	—
Death rate from Diphtheria					...	...	—
Death rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis					...	...	0.17
Death rate from Influenza					...	...	—
Death rate from Pneumonia					...	...	0.42
Death rate from Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers					...	...	—

Maternal Mortality Rates for :—	<i>Maternal Causes Excluding Abortion</i>	<i>Due to Abortion</i>	<i>Total Maternal Mortality</i>
England and Wales per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births 	0.54	0.10	0.64
Kettering Rural District 	—	—	—

Deaths.—The comparability factor for 1955 was 0.94. The crude death rate per 1,000 population for 1955 was 11.28 which multiplied by the comparability factor of 0.94, supplied by the Registrar General, gives a corrected death rate of 10.60. This rate of 10.60 is the rate which, it is assumed, would be arrived at if the age and sex distribution of the population of the Kettering Rural District were distributed in the same proportion as that of England and Wales as a whole.

England and Wales 	11.7
---	------

Births.—The following table shows the birth rate for 1955 together with the rate for England and Wales.

LIVE BIRTH RATES, 1955

A comparability factor has been issued for 1955 by the Registrar General which allows for the different age and sex distribution of Kettering Rural District and provides a basis for comparison with that of England and Wales as a whole.

Kettering Rural District 	14.45
Kettering Rural District corrected by comparability factor 1.12 	16.18
England and Wales 	15.0

INFANT MORTALITY RATES, 1955

Infant mortality is the number of deaths in children under one year of age per 1,000 live births. This is an indication of the environmental and social conditions of a community with special reference to housing, overcrowding, and maternity and child welfare.

Kettering Rural District 	17.34
England and Wales 	24.9

NEONATAL MORTALITY, 1955

Neonatal mortality is the number of deaths in children under four weeks of age per 1,000 live births.

Kettering Rural District 	11.56
England and Wales 	17.3

The causes of deaths in children under one year of age with age and sex distribution are given in the following table :—

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Cause of Death</i>
1 day	M	Intracranial Haemorrhage.
1 week	F	Prematurity.
2 months	M	Pneumococcal Suppurative Meningitis. Pneumococcal Suppurative Otitis Media. Bacillus Coli Gastro Enteritis. P.M.

The registered causes of death were as follows :—

							<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
All causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	67	68	135
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
10.	Malignant neoplasm stomach	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
11.	Malignant neoplasm lung bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	7	2	9
12.	Malignant neoplasm breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm uterus	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	8	9	17
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	6	9	15
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	8	13	21
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	5
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	11	11	22
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	5	1	6
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
25.	Other disease of the respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
26.	Ulcer and stomach duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	6
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

(a) **Laboratory Facilities.**—Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, Northampton and the Laboratory of the Kettering General Hospital. The following specimens were examined :

Pus	...	...	...	...	...	1
Faeces	...	...	...	...	...	112
Rats	...	...	...	...	...	2
						<hr/> 115 <hr/>

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.**—The County Council is responsible for Ambulance Services. The St. John Ambulance Brigade carry out the Service on behalf of the County Council for Non-Infectious cases.

(c) **Nursing in the Home.**—The County Council is responsible for the Home Nursing Service.

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**—A County Council Welfare Clinic is held monthly in the following parishes. A Medical Officer attends each session :—

Broughton—3rd Monday.

Geddington—1st Tuesday.

Gretton—4th Friday.

Weldon—2nd Monday.

The treatment of Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases is carried out by the Regional Hospital Board.

National Assistance Act 1948, Section 47.—This Act gives Local Authorities powers to enable them to deal expeditiously with the certain cases of persons in need of care and attention which they are unable to provide for themselves and are not receiving from other people. No formal action was taken under this Section of this Act during the year. A number of old folk living on their own were visited during the year and helped in many ways. One case was found to be in need of care and although at first reluctant to enter Hospital was persuaded to do so, it is only as a last resort that formal action is taken under this Act.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply.—The Mid-Northants Water Board continued the work commenced in the previous year on the North West Regional Scheme, which is designed to take main water supplies to the following villages :—Brampton Ash, Dingley, Sutton Bassett, Weston-by-Welland, Ashley, Stoke Albany, Wilbarston, East Carlton, Middleton and Cottingham.

The greater part of the water main laying involved in this extensive scheme had been completed by the end of the year, and the Water Board were in fact able to provide in some of the villages temporary supplies from public standpipes, which proved to be of immense value during the particularly dry period at the end of 1955.

When this North Western Scheme of the Water Board is brought into full operation in the near future every village in the district will be provided with a mains water supply.

The following table headed Water Supplies, gives detailed information concerning the position of water supplies in each of the thirty parishes at the end of 1955.

Regular sampling of the supplies under their control is carried out by the Mid-Northants Water Board both for bacteriological and chemical examination, and at all times during the year all the supplies were reported to be satisfactory. None of the water supplies in the district is liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

The total number of dwellings in the district is 4,047 and 3,208 of these are supplied with piped water either from public mains or private water undertakings.

WATER SUPPLIES

Parish	Estimated Population :	Total No. of Houses in Parish	No of Houses obtaining water from piped supplies	No. of Houses obtaining water from private and public wells	Remarks
Ashley	176	61	10	51	Private Wells
Brampton Ash ...	157	51	19	32	do.
Braybrooke	265	90	69	21	Public Mains
Broughton	1554	528	478	50	do.
Cottingham	606	230	145	85	Private & Public Wells
Cranford	467	169	159	10	Public Mains
Cransley	310	117	85	32	do.
Dingley	82	29	15	14	Private Wells
East Carlton ...	255	70	67	3	Private Estate Supply
Geddington	1165	452	385	67	Public Mains
Grafton Underwood	312	105	105	—	do.
Gretton	1049	305	272	33	do.
Harrington	144	51	43	8	do.
Loddington	325	122	76	46	do.
Middleton	284	90	24	66	Private & Public Wells
Newton	116	34	34	—	Public Mains
Oakley	272	86	64	22	do.
Orton	62	19	17	2	do.
Pytchley	514	180	179	1	do.
Rockingham	180	57	57	—	Private Estate Supply
Rushton	393	144	102	42	do.
Stanion	307	117	87	30	Public Mains
Stoke Albany ...	273	98	75	23	Private & Public Wells
Sutton Bassett ...	71	26	5	21	do.
Thorpe Malsor ...	107	46	46	—	Public Mains
Warkton	166	54	54	—	Private Estate
Weekley	207	61	61	—	do.
Weldon	1652	445	422	23	Public Mains
Weston-by-Welland	112	47	15	32	Private & Public Wells
Wilbarston	494	163	38	125	do.
TOTALS	12077	4047	3208	839	

Drainage and Sewerage.—As in previous years the Council continued its policy of providing all the villages within its area with modern sewerage schemes. Of the four new schemes commenced during 1954, those at Rushton (1st part of scheme), Rockingham and Braybrooke were completed, and the scheme at Grafton Underwood was almost completed by the end of the year.

In addition the new sewerage scheme for the village of Loddington was commenced in the latter part of the year and is progressing satisfactorily. In this scheme a new system of sewers is being provided throughout the village which will discharge into an existing main outfall sewer, which was provided at the time of the construction of the adjacent impounding reservoir at Thorpe Malsor, used to provide the Borough of Kettering with part of its water supply. This sewer will convey the foul sewage to a new disposal works site beyond the outlet from the reservoir.

In each of the villages previously mentioned, as the new disposal works have been completed the work of connecting various individual properties has proceeded. In the majority of cases the connection of properties to the new sewerage schemes has entailed the installation of complete new drainage systems.

The Rural District Council has again throughout the year assisted many owners to take full advantage of the new facilities afforded by such main drainage schemes, by the use of Improvement Grants under the provisions of the Housing Acts 1949 and 1954, by which means property owners have been assisted financially in installing modern sanitation, bathrooms, hot water etc., in their houses.

During the year the proposed combined sewerage scheme for the villages of Cottingham, Middleton and East Carlton which had been prepared immediately after the war was, with certain modifications, approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. Approval of this scheme had been held in abeyance previously by the Ministry owing to the fact that the villages concerned were not provided with a public mains water supply. This position is now, however, changing, as water mains have already been laid throughout the villages by the Mid-Northants Water Board, and within a comparatively short time will be providing the water supply which is inevitably the forerunner of a modern water carriage system of sewage disposal. This scheme has always been looked upon by the Council as being one of its most urgently needed schemes and it is hoped that now the water supply problem has been solved that the Ministry will allow the scheme to proceed at the very earliest opportunity.

The various sewage disposal works throughout the district have continued to give very satisfactory results and effluents have been of a very high standard.

The suitable disposal of dry sludge from the works does however present the same problem in this district as in the majority of districts throughout the country. Since however there exists within the district many acres of derelict ironstone workings which are due to be levelled and restored, and reclaimed for agricultural use, it is hoped that a use for the sludge might be found in introducing humus back into the surface soil.

Household Refuse and Night Soil Collection.—Household refuse is collected by the Authority from the whole of the thirty parishes and is carried out on a fortnightly schedule. Proper covered refuse collecting vehicles are in use for this service and the work has been satisfactorily maintained throughout the year.

All the refuse collected is disposed of by tipping into disused ironstone quarries, all of which are located in remote situations.

Owing to the closure of one of the larger tips adjacent to Newton, the owners of which terminated the agreement with the Council as the land was required for a future ironstone quarrying programme, the Rural District Council entered into an agreement with the Kettering Borough Corporation, which enables refuse collected in the Geddington, Newton, Rushton and Oakley area to be disposed of in the Kettering Borough refuse tip at Cherry Hall.

Close watch has again been kept on all the refuse tips throughout the year, by the Council's Rodent Operator in order to prevent any infestation by rats. Regular disinfestation treatments were carried out which have proved to be very effective.

The collection and disposal of night soil from all the premises in the district provided with pail-closets has again proceeded throughout the year, the work being carried out by a private contractor engaged by the Council under contract to carry out this work on a weekly collection basis.

The number of pails at the beginning of the year was approximately 720. As the properties throughout the district are connected to new sewerage schemes and modern sanitation is provided in place of the pail-closets the number is fortunately diminishing from year to year. An arrangement is in being between this Council and the Kettering Borough Corporation whereby all the night soil collected is disposed of by tipping into the town's main outfall sewer at a suitable point outside the precincts of the town.

Rodent Control.—The full-time rodent operator employed by the Council continued the work of rodent control throughout the whole of the district, dealing with all complaints of vermin infestation. This work also includes routine inspection and treatment against rat infestation of all refuse tips, sewage works and sewers.

The table given below summarises the work carried out by the operator throughout the year, and again as in previous years it will be noted that very few major infestations were discovered. It is probably significant that the estimated number of vermin destroyed throughout the course of the year has diminished appreciably, and no doubt is a reflection upon the usefulness of this work.

<i>Type of Premises</i>	<i>No. of Premises Inspected</i>	<i>Degree of Infestation</i>			<i>Treatments</i>		<i>Estimated No. of Vermin destroyed</i>
		<i>Heavy 50-100</i>	<i>Medium 12-50</i>	<i>Small 1-12</i>	<i>Visits</i>	<i>Treatments</i>	
Dwelling Houses ...	781	9	21	272	1432	302	1973
Council's Refuse Tips, Sewage Works, etc. ...	82	—	1	74	281	75	262
Business Premises ...	32	—	3	7	40	10	47
Agricultural Premises ...	47	—	12	10	75	22	162

Moveable Dwellings.—During the year licences were granted by the Council in respect of 12 caravans stationed in various parishes within the district. An additional caravan was found to be in use on a site which was considered to be unsatisfactory, and the licence in this case was refused and the caravan subsequently removed from the site.

Regular visits of inspection were made to the caravans stationed in the district, and all were found to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

Verminous Premises.—During the year the following infestations of insects were discovered and effective remedial action was taken in each case by the use of appropriate insecticidal spraying.

2 Cluster Fly Infestations.

5 Cockroach Infestations.

6 Ant Infestations.

Disinfections.—During the year 52 visits were made to premises at which infectious diseases had occurred. Disinfection of infected rooms and bedding, clothing, etc., was carried out in 18 cases of infectious disease.

Factories.—The following table indicates the number of factories of each category in the district, and shows the number of inspections made and contraventions discovered and remedied during the year.

1. **Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health :—

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	22	19	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	40	35	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises). ...	14	19	2	—
TOTAL	76	73	6	—

2. **Cases in which defects were found** :—

Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which Prosecu- tions were instituted (6)
		Reme- died (3)	To H.M. Inspec- tor (4)	By H.M. Inspec- tor (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.) ...	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature S.3.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.) :					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	2	2	—	—	—
TOTAL	6	6	—	—	—

SECTION D

HOUSING

The Council's housing schemes were continued throughout the year and showed further progress as shown by the following table :—

<i>Parish</i>				<i>Pre-War Houses</i>	<i>Post-War Houses Completed</i>	<i>Completed under Construction</i>	<i>Completed in 1955</i>
Ashley ...	...	...	...	4	5	—	—
Brampton Ash	...	...	...	2	—	—	—
Braybrooke ...	...	...	...	14	14	—	—
Broughton ...	...	...	...	71	94	8	20
Cottingham & Middleton	...	...	...	26	75	3	—
Cranford ...	...	...	...	6	22	3	—
Cransley ...	...	...	...	10	20	—	—
Dingley ...	...	...	...	—	4	—	—
East Carlton	...	...	...	—	2	—	—
Geddington	...	...	...	35	90	4	—
Grafton Underwood	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Gretton ...	...	...	...	32	65	—	9
Harrington ...	...	...	...	—	8	—	—
Loddington ...	...	...	...	4	27	4	4
Newton ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Oakley ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Orton ...	...	...	...	—	2	—	—
Pytchley ...	...	...	...	22	47	2	4
Rockingham ...	...	...	...	—	6	—	—
Rushton ...	...	...	...	—	18	—	—
Stanion ...	...	...	...	—	26	—	—
Stoke Albany	...	...	...	12	14	—	8
Sutton Bassett	...	...	...	6	—	—	—
Thorpe Malsor	...	...	...	—	10	—	—
Warkton ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Weekley ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Weldon ...	...	...	...	7	75	4	—
Weston-by-Welland	...	...	...	6	6	—	—
Wilbarston ...	...	...	...	26	20	3	—
TOTALS ...	...	...	...	283	650	31	45

The above table shows that during the year 1955 an additional 45 houses were completed and occupied, making a total of 650 Council houses constructed since the end of the war.

In addition to the Council houses built during the year, 18 private houses were erected, and 13 were in the course of the year.

Some further progress has again been made in the rehousing of families occupying temporary housing accommodation in converted military huts on the Grafton Underwood Aerodrome, and at the end of the year only five families remain to be rehoused.

The huts in which these families have been accommodated have long outlived their useful life, and immediately upon a family being rehoused arrangements are made for the hut to be demolished in order to prevent it becoming re-occupied.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT 1954

Survey on Slum Clearance.—Under the terms of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954, all local authorities were required to cause a survey to be made of the whole of their district to ascertain the total number of unfit houses which require to be dealt with by clearance, demolition, or by conversion and improvement. The Act further required Councils to prepare a programme for dealing in one way or another with the houses in their area which appear to them to be unfit for human habitation and liable to demolition.

It is quite obvious that the problem facing the Rural Council differs in many respects from the problems facing the larger cities and urban districts where large areas of congested slum properties still exist. The term “slum” in its true sense cannot be applied to any properties in the Rural District. Such houses that require clearance or demolition in this district do so because of the impracticability of rendering the houses fit at reasonable expense.

The greatest obstacle to overcome in a problem of this nature is that of rehousing the persons displaced from the unfit houses. As the majority of the younger families in the villages have already been rehoused, we find that in dealing with the remaining unfit houses, the Council are in the main dealing with the older section of the population, many of whom are old age pensioners. Immediately, this makes it imperative that any alternative housing accommodation offered to these older persons shall be available at a low rent.

The whole problem of clearing away the unfit houses will hinge upon this one factor, the possibility of providing small but modern bungalows at a low rental to meet the needs of the older people.

From the complete survey of the district it appears that there are 298 houses which require to be dealt with either by clearance or conversion and improvements.

Public Health and Housing Acts.—Work under these Acts for the purpose of rectifying defects and abating nuisances has been continued throughout the year and the following tables give details of the routine work carried out :—

(1) Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :—					
1.	(a)	No. of houses inspected for defects	...	...	91
	(b)	Inspections made for the purpose	...	...	267
2.	(a)	No. of houses inspected and recorded under the			
		Housing Consolidation Regulations	...	...	33
	(b)	Inspections made for the purpose	...	...	56
3.		No. of houses found to be in a state dangerous or in-			
		jurious to health so as to be unfit for human habitation			33
(2) Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice :—					
		No. of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of in-			
		formal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...		83
(3) Action under Statutory Powers :—					
	(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act,			
		1936 :—			
	1.	No. of houses in respect in which notices were			
		served requiring repairs	...	...	—
	2.	No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit by			
		owners or the Local Authority after service of			
		formal notice	...	...	—

- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—
1. No. of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs —
 2. No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after serving notices —
- (c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
1. No. of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made 7
 2. No. of houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders 4
 3. No. of houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11, and still in force 3

A summary of sanitary defects remedied during the year is as follows:—

Drains relaid or repaired	...	...	...	57
Blocked drains cleared	...	...	...	18
Inspection Chambers repaired	...	...	...	37
Inspection Chambers provided	...	...	...	97
Vent and Soil Pipes provided or repaired	...	...	...	13
Pail Closets converted to W.C.s	...	...	...	43
W.C. compartments repaired	...	...	...	29
Septic Tanks and Cesspools repaired	...	...	...	3
Wells and Pumps repaired	...	...	...	17
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	43
Rain-water guttering repaired	...	...	...	21
Dampness in walls remedied	...	...	...	19
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	32
Doors repaired	...	...	...	12
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	...	...	...	36
Floors repaired or relaid	...	...	...	20
Sub-floor ventilation provided	...	...	...	7
Handrails provided to staircases	...	...	...	11
Stairs repaired	...	...	...	17
Ventilation to pantries provided	...	...	...	11
Paving repaired or relaid	...	...	...	31
Washing Coppers repaired	...	...	...	9
Sinks provided	...	...	...	27
Internal water service provided	...	...	...	95
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	23

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply.—The Council's duties relating to milk supplies in the District are now concerned only with the question of milk distribution and supervision of retailers of milk. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is now responsible for the production side of milk supplies.

The following table gives a summary of licences and registrations granted by the Council during the year :—

Registered Distributors of milk	...	...	...	...	5
Registered Dairies	...	...	...	...	5
Licensed Pasteurised Dealers	...	...	...	...	5
Licensed Tuberculin Tested Dealers	...	...	...	...	6
Dairies granted supplementary licences to retail Pasteurised Milk within the Rural District	...	...	...	...	8
Dairies granted supplementary licences to retail Tuberculin Tested Milk within the Rural District	...	...	...	...	7
Dairies granted supplementary licences to retail Sterilized Milk within the Rural District	...	...	...	...	1

All supplies of milk handled by registered dairymen etc., in the Council's area are designated suppliers.

Meat Inspection.—The year 1955 was the first full year of working with private slaughtering after the decontrol of meat supplies in July 1954.

Throughout the district there are four private slaughterhouses licensed by the Council. These have been kept in a satisfactory and clean condition throughout the year. All animals killed at the slaughterhouses have been inspected and the following tables show the number of such animals inspected throughout the year, together with meat found to be diseased and condemned:

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep & Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed (if known)	328	—	26	1492	1105	—
Number inspected	328	—	26	1492	1105	—
All Diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	48	—	—	12	6	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	14.63%	—	—	0.8042%	0.543%	—
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcases condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	24	—	—	—	14	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	7.621%	—	—	—	1.267%	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Diseased Meat Condemned

Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	... 1,057 lbs.
Other Diseases	...	...	...	...	... 762 lbs.

All meat found to be diseased and condemned is suitably stained to prevent its sale for food and is subsequently collected and rendered for industrial purposes.

During the year 20 persons were licensed by the Council under the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations 1954 for the purpose of slaughtering animals. Throughout the year regular visits of inspection were made to the six butcher's shops in the district and it was found that they were kept in a satisfactory manner.

Registration of Food Preparing Premises.—The registration of premises for the manufacture or sale of ice cream, or for the manufacture of preserved foods under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938, continued during the year. Frequent visits of inspection were made to such premises in order to ensure that conditions conformed with the Regulations. The number of premises registered are as follows :—

Storage and sale of pre-packed ice cream	...	...	...	42
The manufacture of sausage, or potted or preserved food	...	...	...	5

Bakehouses.—There are 9 bakehouses in various parishes in the district, all of which have been visited regularly.

In eight of these bakehouses mechanical power is installed which brings them also under the control of H.M. Inspector of Factories.

Fried Fish Shops.—Only 2 premises in the district remain as fried fish shops, one at Broughton and one at Weldon, and inspections during the year showed that from the point of view of cleanliness these premises were kept in a satisfactory condition.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Infectious Diseases.—There were 205 cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year as compared with 87 last year.

Diphtheria.—No cases occurred during the year. The last notified case of this disease was in 1945, and the last death was in 1943. This clearly points out the value of Diphtheria Immunisation but it must be emphasised that Immunisation must be continuously practised to keep this dangerous infection at bay.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.—The following table shows the number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to the 31st December, 1955.

Age at 31. 12. 55	Under 1	1	2	3	4
i.e. Born in Year	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951
No. Immunised	19	116	130	129	122
Age at 31. 12. 55	5-9	10-14	Total		
i.e. Born in Year	1946-50	1941-45	Under 15		
No. Immunised	740	672	1928		

The number of children who were immunised in 1955 is as follows :—

Under 5 years	...	...	...	...	19
5 to 15 years	...	...	...	...	5

			TOTAL	...	24

Boosters	70
----------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

The number of inoculations carried out using Combined Diphtheria/Pertussis Vaccine were as follows :—

	Under 1	1-4	5-14	Total	Boosters
Combined Diphtheria/Pertussis	87	37	1	125	22

Whooping Cough.—15 cases were notified as compared to 56 last year. All cases recovered.

The number of inoculations carried out using Whooping Cough (Pertussis) Vaccine only were as follows :—

	Under 1	1-4	5-14	Total
Whooping Cough only	...	—	—	—

Scarlet Fever.—6 cases of this infection were notified as compared with 14 last year. All cases were nursed at home and all recovered.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever.—No cases of these diseases were notified during the year.

Erysipelas.—2 cases were notified. One case was removed to the Isolation Hospital. Both recovered.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—2 cases of this infection were notified as compared to none last year. One case was removed to the Isolation Hospital and both recovered.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—No case of this infection was notified during the year.

Pneumonia.—8 cases were notified during the year as compared with 1 case last year.

Measles.—The incidence of the disease was high, 155 cases as compared

with 13 cases last year. With the exception of 1 adult, the incidence was confined to children under 15 years of age. No deaths resulted from this illness.

Acute Poliomyelitis.—2 cases of Paralytic and 1 case of Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis were notified during the year. All the cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital. No deaths resulted from this infection. The last death in the Rural District from this disease was in 1950.

Meningococcal Infection.—No cases were notified.

Dysentery.—12 cases of Sonne Dysentery were notified from the District and a further 1 case occurred while the patient was in Kettering General Hospital.

Food Poisoning.—One case was notified from the District and one case occurred while in St. Mary's Hospital. Both cases were due to Salmonella Infection. No death resulted from this infection.

Smallpox.—No cases occurred in the Rural District.

Vaccination.—Vaccination figures for 1955 were as follows :—

	Under 1	1-4	5-14	15 or over	Total
Primary	52	4	1	2	59
Re-vaccination ...	—	—	—	7	7

For comparison purposes the figures for 1954 were :—

	Under 1	1-4	5-14	15 or over	Total
Primary	40	1	3	5	49
Re-vaccination ...	—	3	—	16	19

It is encouraging to note that the number of Primary Vaccinations carried out during 1955 showed an increase on the figures for 1954. Every effort should be made to have as many infants as possible vaccinated and the third month of life is the best time for Primary Vaccination.

International Vaccination.—The International forms for Smallpox and Cholera (for completion by the doctor) must be obtained by the traveller himself and taken to the doctor: it is NOT for the doctor, or a Local Authority or their Medical Officer of Health, to supply them. The forms can usually be obtained by the traveller (free) from the Company arranging his transport—otherwise, he can get them from the Ministry of Health, Savile Row, London, W.1. Special attention is drawn to the note on these forms concerning their being stamped with an approved stamp by the Medical Officer of Health, after vaccination.

My thanks are due to the County Medical Officer of Health for the immunisation and vaccination figures shown in this Section.

TUBERCULOSIS

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.—The regulations empower the Council to prevent persons suffering from Tuberculosis to engage in the milk trade. No action was taken during 1955.

During the year 6 cases of Respiratory and 2 cases of Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified and of these 3 cases were Inward Transfers. (An Inward Transfer is a person already suffering from Tuberculosis who has come to live in the Rural District).

There were 2 deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis in 1955 and 1 case was removed from the Tuberculosis Register as the result of death from other causes. 4 cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis removed to other districts and 1 case of Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis was removed from the Register as cured.

The number of cases in the Register at the end of 1955 were as follows:

RESPIRATORY			NON-RESPIRATORY			Grand
Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Total
23	21	44	5	9	14	58

Number of Deaths and Death Rates from Tuberculosis and Cancer 1955

The provisional numbers of deaths and death rate per million population for England and Wales during the year 1955 are as follows :—

	Number			Rate		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Respiratory Tuberculosis	4,174	1,664	5,838	195	72	131
Other Tuberculosis	361	294	655	17	13	15
Cancer of Lung and Bronchus	14,820	2,451	17,271	693	106	389
Other Cancer	33,339	40,727	74,066	1,559	1,767	1,667

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1955

Age Period	RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	1	—	—	—
15—	—	2	—	—
25—	1	1	—	—
35—	—	—	—	—
45—	—	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	1
65—	1	—	—	1
TOTALS	3	3	—	2

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1955

Age Period	RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—
25—	—	—	—	—
35—	—	—	—	—
45—	—	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—
65—	2	—	—	—
TOTALS	2	—	—	—

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis), 1955

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet Fever	1	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	6
Whooping Cough	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	8	2	—	15
Measles	—	—	—	3	13	31	32	11	1	10	24	30	155
Pneumonia	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	3	8
Sonne Dysentery	3	1	4	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	12
Erysipelas	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	7	5	7	7	15	33	35	13	1	19	27	36	205

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis), 1955

Diseases	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65+	All Ages	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Age Unknown
Scarlet Fever	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	4	6	—	—	—	1	—	—	15	—	—	—
Measles	11	21	2	—	1	—	—	—	155	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	8	—	—	1
Sonne Dysentery	2	5	1	—	—	3	—	—	12	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	1
Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	5	19	13	1	4	6	3	1	205	5	—	3

